

## Injury among Residents of Maricopa County, Arizona 2005

Injury is a public health problem that impacts the lives of thousands of Arizona residents each year. Chronic pain, disability, large medical bills, changes in quality of life, and premature death are just some of the possible effects of injuries. These effects can extend beyond injured individuals to their families and communities. With non-fatal injuries, family members are often required to provide care, which can result in time away from work, loss of income, and increases in stress within the family. At the community level, the financial burden of injuries can include medical expenses, rehabilitation, lost wages, and lost productivity. Most injuries are predictable and preventable. Understanding the causes of injury is an important step toward reducing injury-related morbidity and mortality.

The following report identifies the leading causes of injury among residents of Maricopa County in 2005. This report is intended to be used as a guide for strategy development, program implementation, and evaluation. The Arizona Department of Health Services Injury Prevention Program operates under the vision of reducing injuries in Arizona using integrated surveillance and evidence-based interventions. This report was generated to increase awareness of county-specific injury issues and to facilitate opportunities for effective injury prevention activities.

**Figure 1. Injury Pyramid for Maricopa County Residents, Arizona 2005**

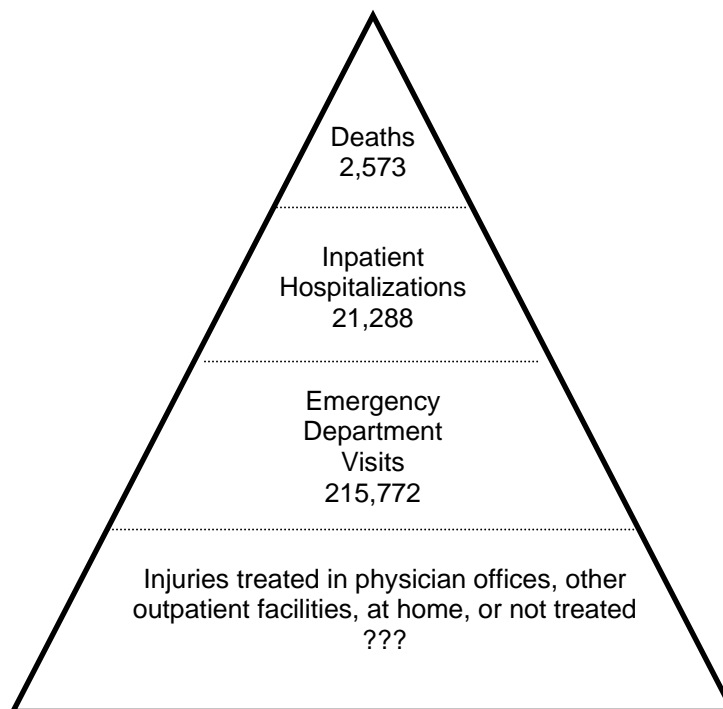


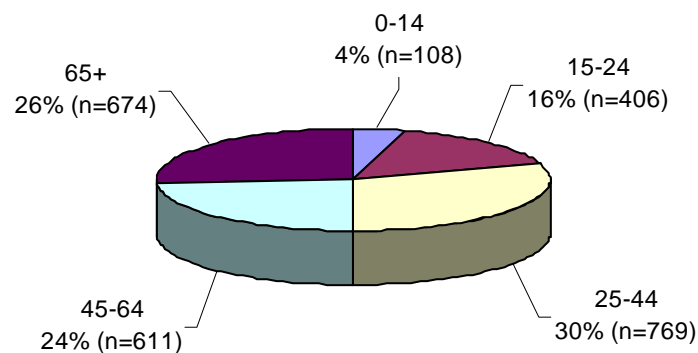
Figure 1 shows an injury pyramid for residents of Maricopa County during 2005. This pyramid shows that deaths represent the smallest proportion of injuries. The proportions increase towards the foundation of the pyramid, which is comprised of

hospital discharges, emergency department visits, and self care. Although injuries that do not require medical treatment may be the most numerous, no existing datasets capture these types of injuries.

## Deaths

In 2005, there were 2,573 injury-related deaths in Maricopa County. Most of these deaths were among males (70 percent, n=1,806), and females accounted for 30 percent (n=767). The largest percentage of deaths was among individuals ages 25 to 44 years (30 percent, n=769). Age distributions are shown in Figure 2.

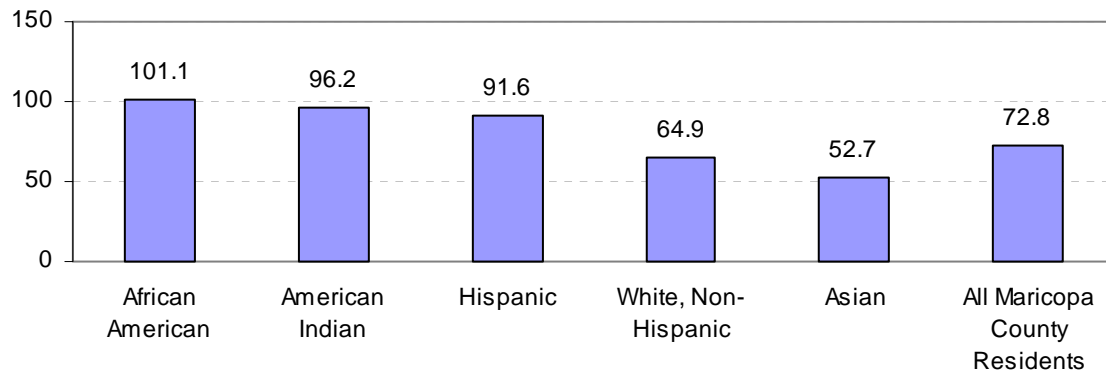
**Figure 2. Injury-Related Deaths by Age Group, Maricopa County, Arizona 2005 (n=2,573)**



Does not include 5 males with missing ages

African American residents of Maricopa had the highest rate of injury-related deaths during 2005 (101.1 deaths per 100,000 residents). American Indians had an injury-related death rate of 96.2 deaths per 100,000 Maricopa County residents. Figure 3 shows the age-adjusted injury-related death rates per 100,000 by race/ethnicity.

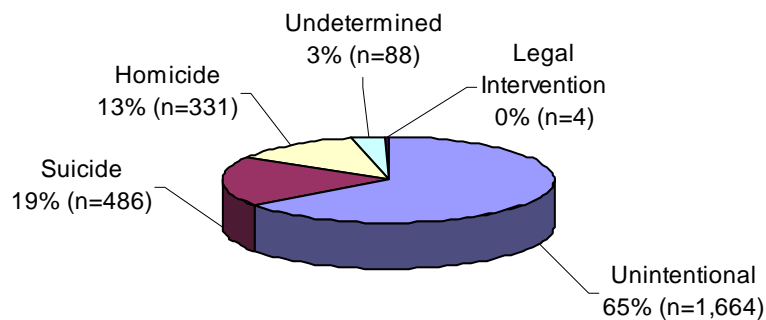
**Figure 3. Age-Adjusted Injury-Related Death Rates per 100,000 by Race/Ethnicity, Maricopa County, Arizona 2005 (n=2,573 )**



Does not include 5 males with missing ages

Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death among individuals ages 1 to 44 years in Maricopa County and in the state of Arizona as a whole.<sup>1</sup> Sixty-five percent of injury-related deaths in Maricopa County were due to unintentional injuries (n=1,664); 19 percent were suicides (n=486); 13 percent were homicides (n=331); and 3 percent were of undetermined intent (n=88). There were four injury-related deaths due to legal intervention. Figure 4 shows injury-related deaths by intent.

**Figure 4. Injury-Related Deaths by Intent, Maricopa County, Arizona 2005 (n=2,573)**



<sup>1</sup> Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2005.

## *Maricopa County Injury-Related Deaths Compared to Other Arizona Counties*

Table 1 shows the intent of injury-related deaths for residents of Maricopa County compared to residents of the rest of Arizona. The leading intent of injury-related deaths was unintentional for both Maricopa County and the remaining counties, accounting for the majority of injury-related deaths. Maricopa County had a larger percentage of homicides (13 percent) than the remainder of Arizona (8 percent).

<b>Table 1. Intent of Injury-Related Deaths, Maricopa County Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005</b>			
Maricopa County (n=2,573)		Arizona, excluding Maricopa County (n=2,017)	
<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Unintentional	65	Unintentional	67
Suicide	19	Suicide	21
Homicide	13	Homicide	8
Undetermined	3	Undetermined	4

### *Suicide*

Males accounted for the majority of suicides in Maricopa County (81 percent, n=392), while females accounted for 19 percent (n=94). Seventeen percent of suicides were among individuals ages 10 to 24 years (n=84); 38 percent were among individuals ages 25 to 44 years (n=183); 29 percent were among individuals ages 45 to 64 years (n=142); and 16 percent were among adults 65 years and older (n=77). The most common cause of suicide was firearms (54 percent, n=261).

### *Homicide*

Males accounted for the majority of homicides in Maricopa County (86 percent, n=284), while females accounted for 14 percent (n=47). Three percent of homicides were among individuals ages 14 years and under (n=9); 35 percent were among individuals ages 15 to 24 years (n=117); 45 percent were among individuals ages 25 to 44 years (n=148); 13 percent were among individuals ages 45 to 64 years (n=44); and 3 percent were among adults 65 years and older (n=10). Three individuals had missing ages. The most common cause of homicide was firearms (79 percent, n=260).

### *Unintentional Injury*

The most common causes of unintentional injury-related deaths in Maricopa County were motor vehicle traffic crashes (35 percent, n=575) and falls (26 percent, n=435). The causes of unintentional injury-related deaths during 2005 in Maricopa County are shown in Table 2.

<b>Table 2. Causes of Unintentional Injury-Related Deaths among Maricopa County Residents, Arizona 2005</b>		
<b>Cause</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Motor vehicle traffic	575	35%
Fall	435	26%
Poisoning	327	20%
Other/unspecified	122	7%
Suffocation	66	4%
Drowning	55	3%
Nature/environment	51	3%
Fire	33	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Motor vehicle traffic crashes

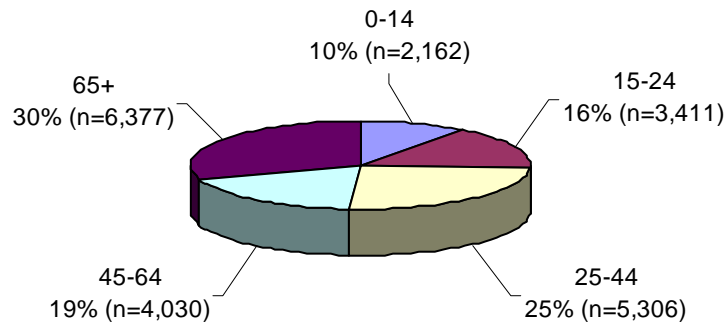
Males accounted for 71 percent of unintentional motor vehicle traffic-related deaths (n=410) and females accounted for 29 percent (n=165). Five percent of these deaths were among children 14 years and under (n=31); 23 percent were among individuals ages 15 to 24 years (n=131); 57 percent were among individuals ages 25 to 64 years (n=327); and 15 percent were among individuals 65 years and older (n=86).

For most of the motor vehicle traffic-related deaths, the location of the injured person was not specified on the death certificate (59 percent, n=339). Ninety-one deaths were pedestrians (16 percent); 65 deaths were motorcyclists (11 percent); 53 deaths were motor vehicle occupants (9 percent); and 27 deaths were pedal cyclists (5 percent).

### **Non-Fatal Inpatient Hospitalizations**

In 2005, there were 21,288 non-fatal inpatient hospitalizations due to injury among residents of Maricopa County. Fifty-four percent were male (n=11,584) and 46 percent were female (n=9,704). Thirty percent of the hospitalizations were among individuals 65 years and older (n=6,377). Figure 5 shows injury-related inpatient hospitalizations by age group among residents of Maricopa County.

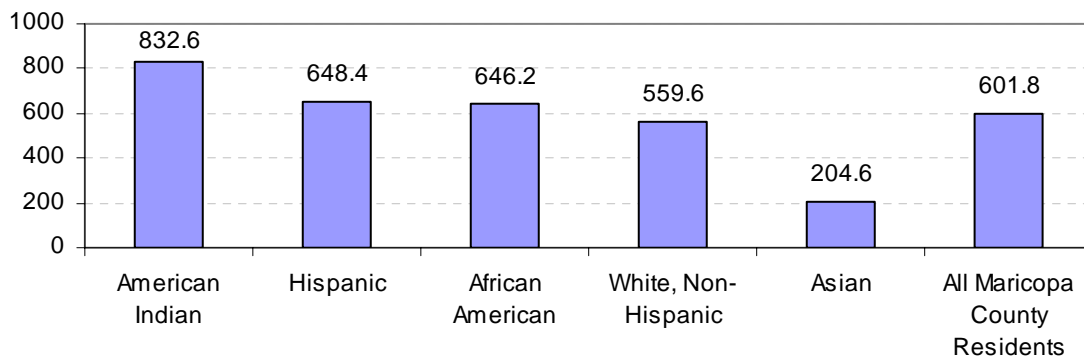
**Figure 5. Injury-Related Inpatient Hospitalizations  
by Age Group, Maricopa County, Arizona 2005  
(n=21,288)**



Does not include 2 males with missing ages

The highest rate of injury-related hospitalizations was among American Indians with 832.6 hospitalizations per 100,000 Maricopa County residents. The second highest rate was among Hispanics with 648.4 hospitalizations per 100,000 residents. Figure 6 shows age-adjusted injury-related inpatient hospitalization rates by race/ethnicity.

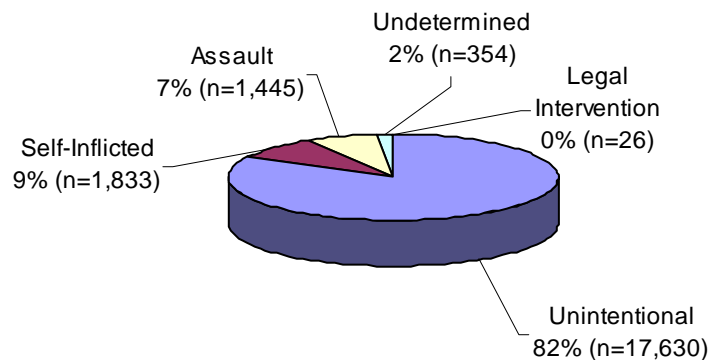
**Figure 6. Age-Adjusted Injury-Related Inpatient  
Hospitalization Rates per 100,000 by Race/Ethnicity,  
Maricopa County, Arizona 2005 (n=21,288)**



Does not include 2 males with missing ages

Eighty-two percent of the inpatient hospitalizations were due to unintentional injuries (n=17,630); 9 percent were due to self-inflicted injuries (n=1,833); 7 percent were due to assaults (n=1,445); and 2 percent were of undetermined intent (n=354). There were 26 hospitalizations due to legal intervention. Figure 7 shows injury-related hospitalizations by intent.

**Figure 7. Injury-Related Inpatient Hospitalizations  
by Intent, Maricopa County, Arizona 2005  
(n=21,288)**



*Maricopa County Injury-Related Hospitalizations Compared to Other Arizona Counties*

Table 3 shows the intent of injury-related hospitalizations for residents of Maricopa County compared to residents of the rest of Arizona. The leading intent of injury-related hospitalizations was unintentional for both Maricopa County and the remaining counties, accounting for the majority of injury-related hospitalizations. Maricopa County and the rest of Arizona had similar percentages of hospitalizations due to self-inflicted injuries and assaults.

<b>Table 3. Intent of Injury-Related Inpatient Hospitalizations, Maricopa County Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005</b>			
Maricopa County (n=21,288)		Arizona, excluding Maricopa County (n=13,736)	
<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Unintentional	82	Unintentional	85
Self-Inflicted	9	Self-Inflicted	8
Assault	7	Assault	5
Undetermined	2	Undetermined	2

The most common causes of unintentional injury-related hospitalizations in Maricopa County were falls (44 percent, n=7,722) and motor vehicle traffic crashes (25 percent, n=4,339). Table 4 shows the causes of unintentional injury-related hospitalizations among residents of Maricopa County.

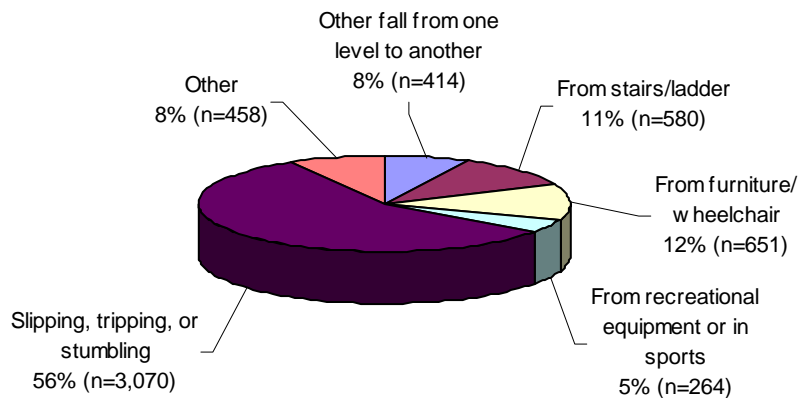
<b>Table 4. Causes of Unintentional Injury-Related Inpatient Hospitalizations among Maricopa County Residents, Arizona 2005</b>		
<b>Cause</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Fall	7,722	44%
Motor vehicle traffic	4,339	25%
Other/unspecified	1,796	10%
Poisoning	1,014	6%
Motor vehicle non-traffic	540	3%
Nature/environment	474	3%
Struck by/against	452	2%
Fire/hot object	401	2%
Overexertion	304	2%
Other pedal cycle	295	2%
Cut/pierce	293	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,630</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Falls

Males accounted for 39 percent of unintentional fall-related hospitalizations (n=2,998) and females accounted for 61 percent (n=4,724). Eight percent of fall-related hospitalizations were among children 14 years and under (n=654); 4 percent were among individuals ages 15 to 24 years (n=268); 24 percent were among individuals ages 25 to 64 years (n=1,850); and 64 percent were among individuals 65 years and older (n=4,950).

For 30 percent of unintentional fall-related inpatient hospitalizations, information regarding contributing event was not specified in the hospital discharge database (n=2,285). Among the hospitalizations for which contributing event was specified, 56 percent were due to slipping, tripping, or stumbling (n=3,070). Figure 8 shows unintentional fall-related hospitalizations by contributing event.

**Figure 8. Inpatient Hospitalizations due to Unintentional Falls by Contributing Event, Maricopa County, Arizona 2005 (n=5,437)**

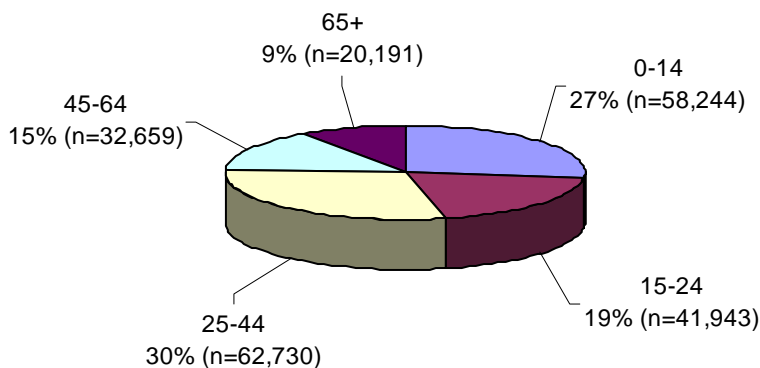




## Non-Fatal Emergency Department Visits

In 2005, there were 215,772 injury-related emergency department visits among residents of Maricopa County. Males accounted for 55 percent of these visits (n=119,231) and females accounted for 45 percent (n=96,535). The largest percentage of visits was among individuals ages 25 to 44 years (30 percent, n=62,730). Figure 9 shows injury-related emergency department visits by age group.

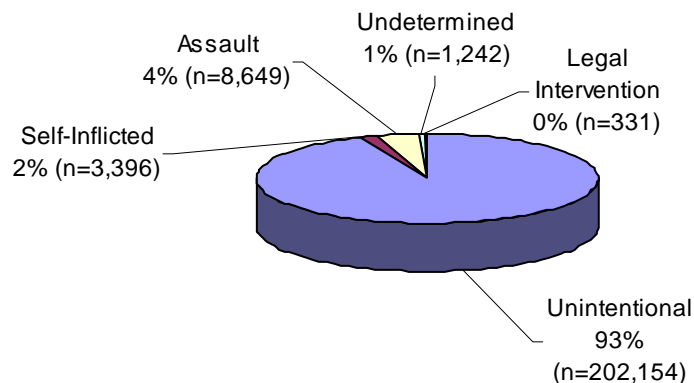
**Figure 9. Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits by Age Group, Maricopa County, Arizona 2005 (n=215,772)**



Does not include 5 individuals with missing ages

Ninety-three percent of the emergency department visits were due to unintentional injuries (n=202,154); 4 percent were due to assaults (n=8,649); 2 percent were due to self-inflicted injuries (n=3,396); and 1 percent were of undetermined intent (n=1,242). There were 331 injury-related emergency department visits due to legal intervention. Figure 10 shows emergency department visits by intent.

**Figure 10. Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits by Intent, Maricopa County, Arizona 2005 (n=215,772)**



*Maricopa County Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits Compared to Other Arizona Counties*

Table 5 shows the intent of injury-related emergency department visits for residents of Maricopa County compared to residents of the rest of Arizona. The leading intent of injury-related visits was unintentional for both Maricopa County and the remaining counties, accounting for the majority of injury-related visits. Maricopa County and the rest of Arizona had the same percentages of visits due to self-inflicted injuries and assaults.

<b>Table 5. Intent of Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits, Maricopa County Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005</b>			
Maricopa County (n=215,772)		Arizona, excluding Maricopa County (n=162,899)	
<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Unintentional	93	Unintentional	93
Self-Inflicted	2	Self-Inflicted	2
Assault	4	Assault	4
Undetermined	1	Undetermined	1

The most common causes of unintentional injury-related emergency department visits in Maricopa County were falls (29 percent, n=4,346) and struck by/against injuries (14 percent, n=28,660). Table 6 shows the causes of unintentional injury-related emergency department visits for Maricopa County residents in 2005.

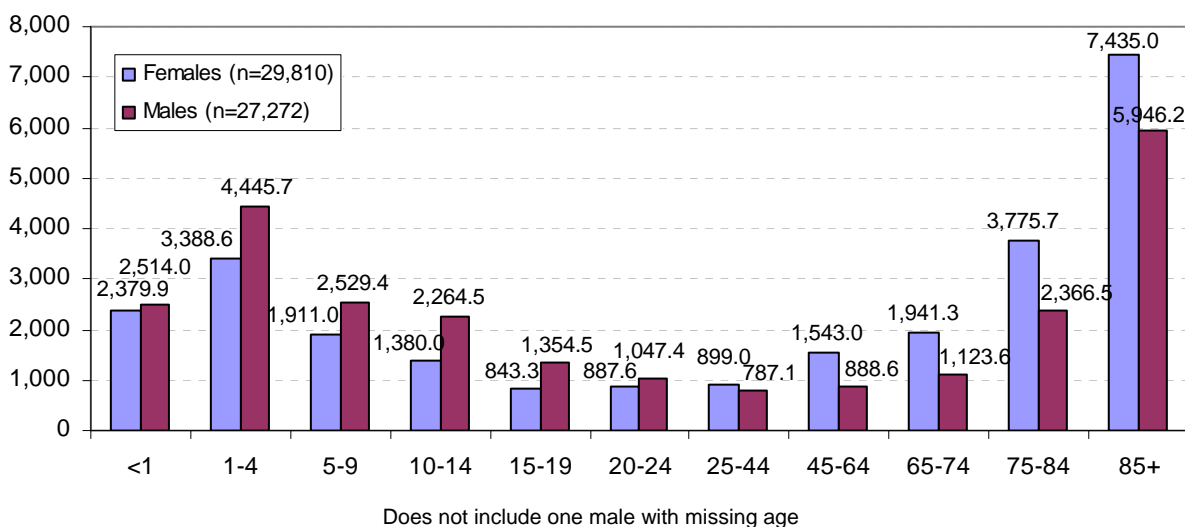
<b>Table 6. Causes of Unintentional Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits among Maricopa County Residents, Arizona 2005</b>		
<b>Cause</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Fall	57,083	28%
Struck by/against	28,660	14%
Other/unspecified	27,388	14%
Motor vehicle traffic	26,702	13%
Cut/pierce	19,594	10%
Overexertion	18,480	9%
Nature/environment	10,131	5%
Other pedal cycle	3,970	2%
Fire/hot object	3,532	2%
Motor vehicle non-traffic	2,574	1%
Poisoning	2,256	1%
Machinery	964	0.5%
Transport	820	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>202,154</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Falls

There were 57,083 emergency department visits due to unintentional falls. Males accounted for 48 percent of these visits (n=27,273) and females accounted for 52 percent (n=29,810). Thirty-eight percent of fall-related emergency department visits were among children 14 years and under (n=21,457); 10 percent of visits were among individuals ages 15 to 24 years (n=5,419); 32 percent were among individuals ages 25 to 64 years (n=18,533); and 20 percent were among individuals 65 years and older (n=11,673).

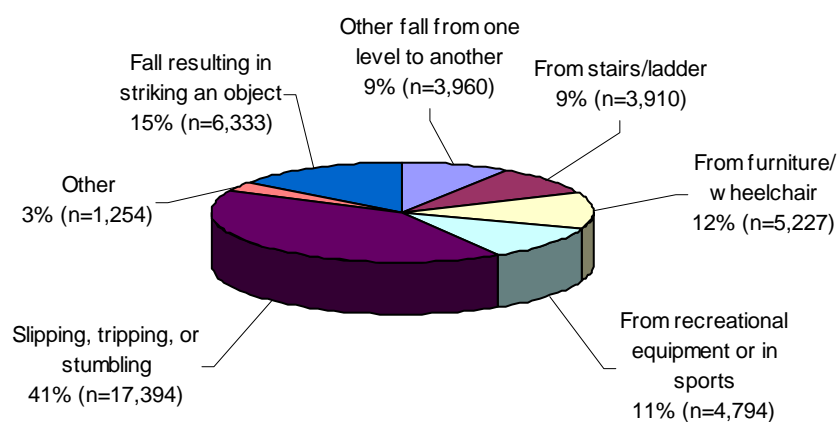
The highest rates of unintentional fall-related emergency department visits were among older adults. Females 85 years and older had a rate of 7,435.0 fall-related emergency department visits per 100,000 residents. Figure 11 shows emergency department visit rates of unintentional falls by age group and gender.

**Figure 11. Unintentional Fall-Related Emergency Department Visit Rates per 100,000, Maricopa County, Arizona 2005 (n=57,083)**



For 25 percent of the unintentional fall-related emergency department visits, information regarding contributing event was not specified in the emergency department database (n=14,211). Among the emergency department visits for which contributing event was specified, 41 percent of unintentional falls were due to slipping, tripping, or stumbling (n=17,394). Figure 12 shows emergency department visits due to unintentional falls by contributing event.

**Figure 12. Emergency Department Visits due to Unintentional Falls by Contributing Event, Maricopa County, Arizona 2005 (n=42,872)**



## Summary

In 2005, there were 2,573 injury-related deaths in Maricopa County, and the largest percentage of deaths was among adults ages 25 to 44 years (30 percent, n=769). The majority of these deaths were due to unintentional injuries (65 percent, n=1,664). The most common cause of unintentional injury deaths was motor vehicle traffic crashes (35 percent, n=575). For residents of Maricopa County, unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for individuals ages 1 to 44 years.<sup>1</sup> Nineteen percent of injury-related deaths in Maricopa County were suicides (n=486); 13 percent were homicides (n=331); and 3 percent were of undetermined intent (n=88). There were four injury-related deaths due to legal intervention.

There were 21,288 non-fatal inpatient hospitalizations due to injury among residents of Maricopa County. Thirty percent of the hospitalizations were among adults 65 years and older (n=6,377). Eighty-two percent of the hospitalizations were due to unintentional injuries (n=17,630); 9 percent were due to self-inflicted injuries (n=1,833); 7 percent were assaults (n=1,445); and 2 percent were of undetermined intent (n=354). Twenty-six hospitalizations were due to legal intervention. The most common cause of unintentional injury-related hospitalizations was falls (44 percent, n=7,722).

There were 215,772 injury-related non-fatal emergency department visits among residents of Maricopa County in 2005. The largest percentage of visits was among individuals ages 25 to 44 years (30 percent, n=62,730). Ninety-three percent of the emergency department visits were due to unintentional injuries (n=202,154); 4 percent were due to assaults (n=8,649); 2 percent were due to self-inflicted injuries (n=3,396); and 1 percent were of undetermined intent (n=1,242). There were 331 injury-related emergency department visits due to legal intervention. The most common cause of unintentional injury-related emergency department visits was falls (29 percent, n=4,346).

Source for deaths: 2005 Death Certificate Database

Source for hospitalizations: 2005 Inpatient Hospital Discharge Database

Source for emergency department visits: 2005 Outpatient Emergency Department Database

## Arizona Counties with Population, 2005

